Recommendations made during conference on rural water supply and sanitation

2423. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day annual conference on rural water supply and sanitation was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made and the decisions taken; and

(d) the steps being taken by the State Government on the instructions of the Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A two-day conference of Ministers in-Charge of rural drinking water supply and rural sanitation in the States and the Union Territories was held on July 4-5, 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was Sustainability in Rural Drinking Water Supply Systems and Sanitation for All. During the inauguration the Prime Minister released theme documents on sustainability in the rural drinking water supply projects and sanitation.

(c) The important issues which were stressed during the conference are as follows:

- State Governments are to ensure sustainability in drinking water sources both surface and ground water to prevent slippage in terms of quality and quantity of drinking water supply;
- Need for effective convergence with other government programmes like NREGA, Water and Soil Conservation, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);
- Dovetailing of funds with the grants provided under the XII Finance Commission;
- Promotion of cost-effective technologies and revival of traditional water bodies and drinking water sources;
- Regular updation of progress on online monitoring system, and
- Improved data management for planning and implementation of projects

(d) The State Governments are in various stages of operationalisation of the recommendations of the annual State Minister's conference and follow up action taken by the Department in this regard.

Evaluation of techniques to eliminate corruption in implementation of NREGA

2424. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any techniques have been devised to eliminate corruption in the implementation of NREGA so that the benefit goes to the poor beneficiaries in rural areas;